

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated November 25, 2005.

Applicant's attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Claims 12-15 are pending in this application. All claims are rejected.

In response to the Examiner's request, a substitute specification is provided herewith.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2004/0061793 to Fellegara et al. (Fellegara) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,371 to Manico et al. (Manico). Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fellegara in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,402,171 to Tagami (Tagami). Claim 14 stands rejected for the same reason as claim 11 (The Examiner probably meant claim 12 because claim 11 is cancelled) and claim 15 stands rejected for the same reason as claim 13.

In accordance with independent claims 12 and 14, the claimed electronic camera includes a frame-advance button for advancing frames of the panoramic image and a superimpose circuit for movably indicating the part of the panoramic image being displayed. FIG. 2c shows a panoramic image 80, that is larger than a display area 70. The frame advance button 52 is used to advance frames of the panoramic image 80 to the display area 70. FIG. 4c shows a miniature superimposed display 90 with a movable indicator for indicating to the viewer what area of the panoramic image 80 is being displayed inside the display area 70.

In a nutshell, the claimed invention teaches displaying a panoramic image 80 that is larger than the screen or the display area 70 on which the panoramic image 80 is being shown. To let the viewer know exactly what area of the panoramic image 80 is being displayed in the display area 70, a miniature 90 of the image and an indicator of the display area is superimposed inside the display area 70. A frame advance button 52 allows the viewer to advance different parts of the panoramic image 80 into the display area 70. The new position is automatically reflected by the movable indicator on the superimposed miniature 90.

Fellegara describes providing an integrated album of stored images in a digital camera. Fellegara does not describe displaying a panoramic image that is larger than its display area,

therefore it does not include or teach superimposing a miniature of the panoramic image and the display area indicator on the display area. Manico and Tagami do not cure that deficiency.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion that Tagami discloses means for superimposing, citing to FIGS. 49, 50, 52, and 60, and columns 5, 7, 25 and 26 the referenced figures and text only show and describe a portion of a reproduced image being displayed. Such display does not amount to superimposing a miniature of the panoramic image and the movable display area indicator on the display area. Similarly, the references do not describe viewing the panoramic image frame by frame, using a frame advance button to advance different frames of the panoramic image to the display area. There is not even a remote suggestion of such a combination in the cited prior art.

Thus, Applicants' independent claims 12 and 14 are patentably distinct from Fellegara, Manico, Tagami, or their combination. Claims 13 and 15 depend directly from above discussed independent claims and are, therefore, patentable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in the respective independent claims.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on February 9, 2006:

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Respectfully submitted,

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